



WHAT'S NEW FROM THE BUREAU OF CHILD CARE

childcarefinder.IN.gov

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A. Message from the Child Care Administrator

Even with the frightful weather we recently experienced, the Bureau of Child Care (BCC) has continued to move ahead with internal and external realignment that will support implementation of a voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS).

The Licensed Child Care Home unit will no longer be managed by two separate regional managers. Debbie Sampson is now the lead manager for the Licensed Child Care Homes program. All licensed child care home staff will report directly to her. BCC is also exploring the current role of our Nursing Consultants and what health consultation services that they may be able to offer to child care providers who are participating in the QRS.

BCC is in the process of procuring new contracts to provide QRS evaluation and QRS assessment services. Also, a contract has been executed so that we may enhance our Regulated Child Care Provider (RCCS) software and database to effectively and efficiently support QRS related activities.

Finally, we are seeking parent and provider input about how we might revise our current voucher payment system and policies in order to best support licensed child care businesses. A series of statewide meetings are taking place to garner feedback and input.

By April 2008, it is anticipated that the child care voucher benefits will be combined onto the same electronic swipe card as the TANF cash assistance and Food Stamps benefit card (also known as EBT card).

Please continue to visit our website at www.childcarefinder.in.gov for more frequent updates and announcements.



B. Multiple Licenses in the Same Structure

The Office of Homeland Security/Division of Legal & Code Services has clarified some confusion regarding fire walls. For 2 or more licensed child care homes to be in the same residence, there must be a 2 hour structurally independent fire wall constructed according to the Indiana Building Code (675 IAC 13). The firewall must go through the roof not to the roof; or the construction fire rating is continued 4 feet on both sides of the wall at the roof level and maintains its structural independence. If you have a design professional that is not clear on the difference, they should be referred to the Division of Legal & Code Services at 317-232-0146.

We have asked for assistance from the State Fire Inspectors Office in verifying compliance in structures with more than 2 homes and other homes we have difficulty determining compliance. Currently licensed homes will be grandfathered and will not be affected by this clarification.

Structures of this nature will require a Multiple Licenses and a Residential Design Professional Form to be completed on forms provided by the state. To obtain a copy of either form, please contact your child care home licensing consultant.



C. Update on Proposed Changes to Licensed Child Care Home Regulations

The final meeting of the home child care providers work group was held in December. The proposed draft of the new home regulations is now available for providers to review. You may view the draft at www.childcarefinder.in.gov or you may pick up a copy at the local child care resource and referral office nearest you.

Additionally, all home providers, as well as families and concerned community members, are invited to attend the public forums that will be held throughout the state. There will be meetings held in Gary, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Richmond, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, New Albany and Evansville. The dates and locations of these meetings will be announced soon. The meetings will be held from mid-March through mid-April. To allow the maximum number of providers to attend, the meeting will be held in the evenings or on Saturdays. During these meetings the proposed changes will be discussed and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

It is important to remember that these are proposed changes and that the document that is now available is a working draft. There are still several steps

remaining before the current regulations are changed. These public forums are the next step in the promulgation process. Your feedback is important. Please take the opportunity to review the draft and then attend one of the meetings. Also, please continue to follow the existing regulations until the new regulations are fully promulgated.



D. Spring Break - Vouchers May Need To Be Changed

Warmer weather and spring will be here soon! For the providers that take school age children on the CCDF program, those vouchers may need to be changed for spring break. Currently most vouchers are for before and after school care and will need to be changed to reflect full time care for the week of spring break.

Full time care for School Age Other is defined as 25 hours or more per week. During the school year most (with some exceptions) school age children should have School Age vouchers. On this type of voucher full time care for school age children is defined as 15 hours or more per week.

If the voucher is not changed from School Age to School Age Other, you will continue to receive the School Age rate for before and after school care. If you have any vouchers that need to be changed to reflect the School Age Other rate for spring break care, have the parent contact their local Intake Office to have these corrected.



E. Professional Development Opportunities

April 9 - 11, 2007 (Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis)

The Institute for Strengthening Families is offering intensive training through skill building, 3-hour seminars provided by subject matter experts and resource materials that will assist providers in their efforts to strengthen families and support young children to be "safe, healthy and ready to learn." The seminars are relevant to early childhood learning, infant and adult mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence. For further information and on-line registration, visit www.theinstituteforfamilies.org.

April 12 - 14, 2007(Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis)

The Indiana Early Childhood Conference, presented by the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC), is the largest conference in

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Indiana geared toward early childhood professionals and parents of children birth through eight years of age. This conference offers:

- ✓ Over 190 different workshops presented by early childhood professionals from across the nation;
- ✓ Keynote and highlight speakers currently in high demand in the early childhood field;
- ✓ Exhibitors with products and services geared toward early childhood professionals; and
- ✓ Many opportunities for people in the early childhood field to network with other professionals as well as gain resources they can utilize to increase the quality of care and education that young children receive.

For program information and on-line registration, visit www.iaeyc.org.

April 22 - 28, 2007

The Week of the Young Child is an annual national celebration that focuses attention on the needs of young children and their families, recognizes early childhood programs and services meeting those needs, and presents a time to plan how to better serve young children. This year's theme is "*Building Better Futures for All Children*". Individual community celebrations during the week are being planned and coordinated statewide by the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) and their local chapters. To find out how to participate in your local celebration, contact IAEYC at 1-800-657-7577 or your local IAEYC chapter.



F. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Alerts

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children.

You can find information on over 4,000 product recalls and recall alerts using the various searches on the CPSC website. Their website is located at <http://www.cpsc.gov>. To subscribe to a CPSC, email list just follow the instruction that can be found at their website.



G. Recent Approval of a Disinfectant/Sanitizer for Use in Child Care Facilities

Recently a new disinfectant/sanitizer product was approved, by the Bureau of Child Care, to be used as an alternative to bleach water. Melaleuca EcoSense-Sol-U-Guard Botanical may be used on all non-porous surfaces including food contact surfaces, diaper changing pads/tables, areas contaminated with small amounts of body fluids, etc. The product must be used in accordance with the products label and must be stored in its original container.

This product is not approved for use on materials that are porous. This product is available through restaurant supply vendors and at various discount stores such as Wal-Mart and K-mart. If you need additional information about disinfecting/sanitizing in a child care setting please contact your child care consultant.



H. Update on New Federal CCCF Improper Payments/Error Rate Process

In 2003, Indiana was selected as a state to participate in a conversation with the federal government in order to identify and reduce the number of child care dollars spent for ineligible services. The BCC Care Operations Unit is adding a new position to be responsible for compliance with the federal "Improper Payments" initiative.

Examples of improper payments include, but are not limited to:

- Child Care payments made for ineligible families
- Child Care payments made to an ineligible provider
- Child Care payments based on fraudulent information
- Child care payments made through administrative error

BCC has already developed multiple preventative, tracking and recovery steps. The process of linking and verifying client and provider information contained in multiple databases has begun. Our goal is to have our comprehensive plan implemented by October 1, 2007.

